



**IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATIONS (ILCP) IN
DOUMENTZA DISTRICT, MOPTI
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AID-FFP-G-15-00053**

**Second Quarterly Report
July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015**

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1. Key Information

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Project Title: Improving Livelihoods of Conflict-Affected Populations (ILCP) in Douentza District, Mopti

Project Duration: May 27, 2015 – May 31, 2016

Program Goal: Contribute to the well-being of drought affected and food insecure communities in Douentza district

Budget: \$2,420,000

2. Situation

The security situation has remained relatively calm in Douentza District, with the exception of Mondoro commune where the security situation is more volatile. At the beginning of September 2015, while on duty in the village of Ouro Allaye Tem, three members of the project team were attacked by a group of armed men and stripped of their belongings, including two motorcycles purchased under the current FFP grant. Field visits have resumed in the commune and the project team is engaging with local authorities to devise the best way of improving security conditions for the teams. The IRC is carefully monitoring the situation in other parts of the district, while pursuing project activities.

The rainy season that began in June continues. Some villages remain difficult to access by road, as vehicles tend to get stuck in the mud; motorcycles are used instead.

During the reporting period, the bulk of activities conducted were preparations for cash distributions: validating beneficiary lists, designing, printing and distributing beneficiary cards, and entering into contract with the cash distribution agency.

The first cash distribution was delayed due to delays with project start-up and preparations for distribution. It will take place in October 2015. The second distribution is planned to take place in January 2016 as stated in the original workplan and the third distribution will take place in March 2016, the first month of next year's lean period, to replace the distribution that was supposed to take place in June 2015 (also during the lean period).

3. Summary of Activities

3.1 Staff training

As planned, the project team benefited from a five-day training on cash distribution in Douentza led by Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) trainers. CaLP is a renowned organization that is a leader in cash distribution practices. The training was an introduction to the theory and practice on cash distribution. All 23 staff members participated in the training during the first week of August.

3.2 Beneficiary list and distribution committee validation

The IRC was able to validate beneficiary lists through a four-step beneficiary identification plan as reported during Q1, which included, village selection (completed during the first quarter, see Annex 2 for complete list), population profiling, beneficiary targeting, and validation of the beneficiary lists. The following activities were completed during the reporting period:

- **Population profiling:** in selected villages, the IRC project team conducted a general population census in order to determine the beneficiary base. Then, with the help of selection committees, the project team facilitated a household profiling exercise, referring to the Household Economy Approach.¹ Four profiles: the better-off, the middle, the poor and the very poor were identified based on criteria developed by village selection committees. The main criteria were: the number of animals owned, the farmed area, the presence of able men in the households, the presence of an educated and/or a salaried person in the households, and the existence of a family member living abroad.
- **Beneficiary targeting:** once the profiles were defined, the selection committees classified all village households in appropriate categories. Village selection committees were elected in a general assembly, by villagers, facilitated by IRC teams. Each selection committee is made up of women and youth representatives as well as other village community leaders. Then, the IRC team drew the first list of beneficiaries for each village, targeting the Poor and the Very Poor households.
- **Validation of beneficiary lists:** the validation of beneficiary lists was completed during general village meetings. After the IRC explained the process of beneficiary targeting to the village populations, the names of targeted beneficiaries were shared with the community in order to get their approval. In a final step, home visits were conducted to confirm beneficiary names and physical presence in the village.²



The project team visited all beneficiaries to collect their individual details: names, age, family size, and photos. During the process, they corrected some of information such as misspelled names and verified the physical existence of every beneficiary. All lists have been validated apart from one village, Ouro Allaye Tem, where the project team was attacked while carrying out the beneficiary validation activity. To date, the project team continues to engage with local authorities to find a way to gain access to beneficiaries while ensuring their safety.

Simultaneously, cash distribution committees were set up in all villages with the exception of Ouro Allaye Tem with six to seven members , including two women, which are made up of beneficiaries and village leaders. The role of distribution committees is to contribute to solving potential community problems (e.g. fraud, beneficiary absence). These committees are part of the complaint mechanism, in addition to the hotline number that beneficiaries can call to report any problem directly to the IRC team.

3.3 Design, printing and distribution of beneficiary individual cards

The team designed beneficiary cards for 3,096 households. The remaining 404 households will be reached once the team has access to the beneficiaries of Ouro Allaye Tem.

Figure 1 represents a sample of beneficiary cards:

HA/BO/XX/AP/003

BENEFICIAIRE

AMINATA PATEL







SEXE : F – AGE : 65

REPRESENTANT

DJABADO DAOU

SEXE : F – AGE : 45

BONI

1ere Distribution	2 ème Distribution	3 ème Distribution
		
1ere Distribution	2 ème Distribution	3 ème Distribution
		

The photos on the beneficiary card allow the distribution team to verify beneficiary identity. There are two photos on the card, the second person is typically also a member of the beneficiary household, so either person in the photo can receive the cash. By having two representatives, the issue with beneficiary absence at distribution centers due to personal reasons (i.e. sickness) can be addressed. Lastly, the colored cells with the IRC logo serve as the proof for payment that the beneficiary hands to the distribution agency in exchange for the cash.

The project team is in the process of completing the distribution of beneficiary cards. The village of Ouro Allaye Tem remains an exception, as personal details are not yet available. The IRC anticipates this delay will be corrected during the following Q3.

3.4 Contracting with cash distribution agency

The IRC followed internal procurement procedures to recruit distribution agencies. Referring to a field assessment report, the procurement department drew a list of potential distribution agencies (banks, microfinance institutions, individuals operating under mobile company contracts). Due to the confidential nature of the activity, a restricted call for bids was submitted to the list of potential distributors.

Out of 13 bidders, one local bank was contracted in early September 2015 to undertake the cash distribution. This bank met the following required criteria: knowledge of the context, knowledge and acceptance of the risk involved in moving cash in this context, experience in cash distribution, capacity to ensure cash before and during the distribution, reporting capacity. The first distribution has been delayed and will start in early October 2015. The distribution schedule has been adapted due to delays with project start-up and preparations for the distribution. However, the subsequent distribution is planned to take place according to the original work plan in January 2016 and a third distribution will take place in March 2016, the first month of next year's lean period, to replace the distribution that was supposed to take place in June 2015 (also during the lean period).

3.5 Awareness-raising Package

For this activity, the project plans to work with an external consultant to develop awareness-raising modules. The consultant has been recruited and will design the package and train the project team. The training is planned to be completed in mid-November, after which awareness-raising sessions will be held. Additionally, the consultant will support the team in a field visit and provide a refresher training during the implementation of the awareness raising sessions.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

During the reporting period, the primary challenge was the lack of security in some parts of Douentza, where activities were subsequently suspended in the village of Mondoro. The project team plans to change their approach to access beneficiaries in this village, by making themselves less visible in the communities and having the local administration convey most of the messages to beneficiaries.

Another challenge that confronted the project team during the reporting period was the inaccessibility of roads during the rainy season. To mediate this issue, the IRC used motorcycles instead of a vehicle.

Lastly, as farming activities intensified, beneficiaries became more difficult to locate in their villages – most of whom stay at their farms or the farms of their employers for almost a week at a time, before returning to their homes. As a result, there was a delay in validating the beneficiary lists. The team is now fast-tracking the distribution of cards by allocating more staff on the distribution teams.

5. Activities for the Following Quarter

The main activities for the following quarter will consist of:

- October:

- Cash distribution
 - Post-distribution Monitoring
 - Design awareness-raising modules
- November:
 - Staff training on awareness-raising modules
 - Awareness-raising sessions
- December:
 - Awareness-raising sessions
 - Preparation of the 2nd cash distribution

Annex 1: Indicator Update

	Indicator	Baseline data	Actual Q2	Cumulative	Comment
	Result 1: Targeted households have increased access to food and basic needs				
Indicator 1	% of supported HH who report an increase in food spending by at least 70% Target: 70% of HH	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 2	% of trained HH applying at least two home budgeting principles from the awareness-raising package in their resource management Target: 50% of HH	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 3	# of vulnerable households benefiting directly from cash distributions Target: 3,500 HH (12,464 men and 12,036 women)	0	NA		3,500 HHs have been selected
Indicator 4	% of targeted HHs reporting a decrease in the use of loans to access food Target: 50% of HH	71% of HH use loans to access food at the time of the baseline study	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 5	% of targeted pastoralist HHs reporting a decrease in livestock sale to buy food Target: 50% of HH	41% of HH sell livestock to buy food at the time of the baseline	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter

Indicator 6	# of cash transfers distributed to beneficiaries Target: 10,500	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 7	Value of cash transfers distributed to targeted beneficiaries. Target: \$945,000	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 8	# of months from donor-signed agreement to distribution of cash to beneficiaries.	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 9	# of beneficiaries targeted and reached, disaggregated by sex and age ³ Target: 24,500 (5537 women, 5733 men, 6500 girls, 6730 boys)	NA	23,383 people including 902 women; 2,195 men; 9,511 girls and 10,775 boys		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Result 2: The food consumption of beneficiary households is improved and harmful practices are reduced					
Indicator 1	Prevalence of HH with moderate of severe hunger (Household Hunger Scale) Target: Moderate: 1%; Severe: 1%	moderate hunger=38%, severe hunger=10%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter

³ Age groups include the following: 6 to 23 months, 23 to 59 months, 5 to 18 years, and >18 years of age.

Indicator 2	Average Household Dietary Diversity Score Target: TBD after baseline	2.6	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 3	Minimum Women's Dietary Diversity Score Target: TBD after baseline	2.6	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 4	% of under-five children of targeted households identified as malnourished and referred to health facilities Target: 100%	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 5	% of trained HH applying at least two nutrition practices from the awareness-raising package in their resource management Target: 70%	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 6	% of HHs targeted reporting a decrease in use of children deprivation of food as a punishment Target: 70% of HH	95% at the time of the baseline study	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 7	% of targeted women reached by awareness-raising sessions Target: 80%	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter

Annex 2: List of selected villages for cash distribution per commune in Douentza district

Commune	Village
HAIRE	Boni
	Ouro-N'Guerou
HOMBORI	Hombori
	Kelmi
MONDORO	Mondoro-Habi
	Ouro Allaye Tem
KOURAROU	Diona
	Kel-Eguel
GANDAMIA	Kikara
	M'Boula
DJAPTODJI	N'Gouma
	Segue-Kira